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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1080
By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. F.C. Richardson on the occasion of his retirement as Chancellor of Indiana University Southeast.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm and who have brought honor to Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. F.C. Richardson is one such estimable person who will retire in June, 2002 as the esteemed Chancellor of Indiana University Southeast; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Dr. Richardson has distinguished himself as a professional educator and citizen of the utmost merit; and

WHEREAS, a native of Memphis, he is the sixth of eight children of Rich and Lillian Richardson; his considerable accomplishments are a tremendous source of pride for his family; and

WHEREAS, he attended Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi; he became the first member of his family to earn a college degree when he received his Bachelor's degree in Biology in 1960; and

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WHEREAS, after graduating, he served patriotically and gallantly in the United States Army before returning to school to further his education; he earned a Master's degree in Biology from Atlanta University in 1964 and a Doctorate in Botany from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1967; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Richardson then accepted a position as an Assistant Professor of Biology at Indiana University Northwest and thus began a brilliant career in higher education; while at IUN, he served as Chairman of the Biology Department and, in 1972, was named Dean of Arts and Sciences; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, he left IUN to become Vice President for Academic Affairs at Jackson State University, and he later went on to hold a similar position at Moorhead, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, known throughout the academic community as a leader of immense ability, he became President of Buffalo State College in 1989 and served with acumen and alacrity in that position until 1995; and

WHEREAS, in January 1996, he was appointed as a Senior Fellow with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 1996, Dr. Richardson returned to the university system in which he began his distinguished career in higher education, serving as the fifth Chancellor in the sixty-year history of Indiana University Southeast; and

WHEREAS, during his installation ceremony in September 1996, he pledged to lead the school to the "next level of excellence," and he will end his tenure having done that and much more; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Richardson has earned the respect and admiration of the school's students, faculty, administration, and alumni alike for the unsurpassed quality of his service to the university; and

WHEREAS, after taking the helm at IUS, he immediately took steps to improve campus communication by establishing an Administrative Council made up of the administrative and academic leaders of the university; and

WHEREAS, during Dr. Richardson's illustrious tenure, student enrollment has undergone tremendous growth, increasing from 5,381 when he arrived to 6,557 during the fall 2001 semester; and

WHEREAS, IUS's remarkable expansion has been fueled by the reciprocity agreements proposed and advocated by Dr. Richardson; these agreements established in-state tuition for residents of three Kentucky counties, and have boosted the number of Kentucky students at IU Southeast from 235 in 1997 to 1,220 in 2001; and

WHEREAS, as enrollment has expanded, Dr. Richardson has helped to bring about a much-needed increase in permanent faculty; the number of full-time faculty has grown from 137 in 1995 to 174 in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Richardson's accomplishments as Chancellor are countless; he initiated a Quality Services Initiative that promoted the importance of efficient and effective services to students and other campus constituents; helped create institutional research and assessment capabilities; oversaw completion of the Life Sciences Building expansion and renovation and planning for a new library, and led the school's capital campaign; and

WHEREAS, he has inspired ebullient praise from his colleagues, friends, students, and peers, including Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Gil Atnip, who said, "Chancellor Richardson's leadership has been the catalyst for the successes the campus has enjoyed in the past five years...Even more important than these specific accomplishments is the impact of his leadership on the climate of the campus. He has helped us formulate a vision to work towards. He has shown us the value of taking well-considered risks. Most of all, he has created an environment in which people were encouraged and enabled to do their work"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Richardson is an active and important part of his community and his profession, participating in numerous civic organizations, including the Louisville Area

Workforce Development Council and the New Albany Rotary Club; he also contributes his time and expertise to the Board of Directors of the *Negro Educational Review*; and

WHEREAS, the most recent published works of this brilliant man have been book chapters on the power of tests on literacy education, the role of presidents in shaping the culture of academic institutions, and the role of urban institutions in educational reform in America; and

WHEREAS, his professional accomplishments aside, Dr. Richardson is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Bernice, a former teacher and principal, and their three children; and

WHEREAS, he exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Dr. Richardson has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, and he has made a lasting and immeasurable impact on the budding leaders of our nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and recognize the esteemed Dr. F.C. Richardson of Indiana University Southeast on the occasion of his retirement as Chancellor of that illustrious institution and express our best wishes for much happiness and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.